



Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 31 August 2005

Current
Nationwide
Threat Level is

ELEVATED
SIGNIFICANT RISK OF
TERRORIST ATTACKS

[For info click here](http://www.dhs.gov/)

<http://www.dhs.gov/>

Daily Highlights

- The Washington Post reports Hurricane Katrina has halted energy production in one of the nation's main oil-and-gas hubs, raising fears that oil prices could reach debilitating heights in the coming weeks. (See item [3](#))
- The Department of Homeland Security reports President George W. Bush has declared major disasters for impacted areas in Louisiana, Mississippi, Florida, and Alabama due to severe damage from Hurricane Katrina. (See item [29](#))
- Reuters reports authorities made plans to remove thousands of storm refugees from the Superdome stadium and other shelters in New Orleans Tuesday, while U.S. Army engineers raced to staunch rising floodwaters submerging the city. (See item [36](#))

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report *Fast Jump*

Production Industries: [Energy](#); [Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials](#); [Defense Industrial Base](#)

Service Industries: [Banking and Finance](#); [Transportation and Border Security](#); [Postal and Shipping](#)

Sustenance and Health: [Agriculture](#); [Food](#); [Water](#); [Public Health](#)

Federal and State: [Government](#); [Emergency Services](#)

IT and Cyber: [Information Technology and Telecommunications](#); [Internet Alert Dashboard](#)

Other: [Commercial Facilities/Real Estate, Monument & Icons](#); [General](#); [DHS Daily Report Contact Information](#)

Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: Physical: ELEVATED, Cyber: ELEVATED

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – <http://www.esisac.com>]

1. *August 31, Associated Press* — **Utilities rush crews to wrecked areas.** Electric companies from around the country began rushing crews to the hurricane-ravaged South Tuesday, August 30, to help restore power to an area so devastated that it could be weeks or even months before the lights come back on in many places. "The entire grid system in these areas is completely

ruined. They're starting from scratch," said David Botkins, a spokesman for Dominion Virginia Power, which sent 200 workers to Louisiana and Mississippi. New Jersey's Public Service Electric & Gas Co. PSE&G plans to send 15–20 crews. The crews are expected to spend several weeks helping in some of the most devastated areas. Nearly 2 million customers were without power Tuesday in Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama and the Florida Panhandle. Columbus-based American Electric Power Co., the nation's largest power generator, has dispatched 1,000 workers and contractors from its operating companies. North Carolina utilities contributed at least 1,800 workers, with some being told they will be gone at least two weeks.

Source: <http://www.nj.com/news/ledger/index.ssf?/base/news-2/1125468115104100.xml&coll=1>

2. *August 31, The Atlanta Journal–Constitution* — **Much higher gas prices, shortages possible in Atlanta.** Metro drivers in Atlanta, GA, are facing the possibility of paying considerably more than \$3 a gallon for gas by Labor Day—if they can get it at all. The two pipelines that bring gasoline and jet fuel to the region are down—powerless to pump as Hurricane Katrina wreaked havoc on electrical infrastructure. The metro Atlanta region generally has about a 10-day supply of gasoline in inventory, said BP spokesman Michael Kumpf. The pipelines have been down for two days. Alpharetta-based Colonial Pipeline Co., cut off from its suppliers on the Gulf Coast, is now pumping gas from huge storage tanks, many in Powder Springs. Some suppliers are rationing gasoline to retailers, so some stations may already be near empty. It's unclear how soon the pipeline outages may affect operations at Hartsfield–Jackson International Airport. Fuel suppliers and airlines have 22 storage tanks at the airport that hold up to 27.6 million gallons of fuel. At full capacity, that's enough for about 10 days of fuel at the airlines' recent daily consumption rate of 2.8 million gallons.
Source: <http://www.ajc.com/news/content/business/0805/31bizgasprices.html>
3. *August 30, Washington Post* — **Hurricane Katrina stalls energy production.** Hurricane Katrina kept energy production all but paralyzed on Monday, August 29, in one of the nation's main oil-and-gas hubs, shuttering refineries, raking offshore oil platforms, closing pipelines and raising fears that oil prices could reach debilitating heights in the coming weeks. By midday Monday, 615 of the 819 oil platforms in the Gulf of Mexico — three-quarters of the total — had been evacuated, according to the Department of the Interior. Oil production dropped by nearly 92 percent, or 1.4 million barrels a day, and natural gas production was down 83 percent. The storm halted barge traffic on the Mississippi River, preventing crude oil from reaching upriver refineries unaffected by the hurricane. Energy companies warned it will take several days before they can assess the damage to their major facilities in Louisiana, Mississippi and the Gulf of Mexico.
Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2005/08/29/AR2005082900711.html>
4. *August 30, Nuclear Regulatory Commission* — **Nuclear plant operations affected by Hurricane Katrina.** The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is working closely with operators at three nuclear plants to ensure continued safe and secure operations in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. As a precautionary measure, the Waterford 3 nuclear plant near Taft, LA, shut down when a hurricane warning was issued for St. Charles Parish on Saturday, August 27. It remains in an Unusual Event, the lowest of four emergency action levels. Electrical power for key safety systems on site is being supplied by the plant's standby diesel generators, following a

loss of offsite power caused by instability in the regional electrical grid. The Grand Gulf nuclear plant near Port Gibson, MS, and River Bend Nuclear Station near Baton Rouge, LA, were both operating at reduced power Tuesday morning, August 30. The plants operated through the storm, but voluntarily reduced power generation to assist in restoring stability to the electrical grid when a drop in energy consumption caused grid voltage to fluctuate. Some emergency sirens were unavailable at Grand Gulf and River Bend, but plant operator Entergy Nuclear has informed the NRC they can make offsite notifications in the event of an emergency, should the need arise.

Source: <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/news/2005/05-031iv.html>

5. *August 29, Associated Press* — **Florida gasoline in good supply for now.** Gasoline was in good supply Monday, August 29, in Florida as Hurricane Katrina hit west of the state, but Governor Jeb Bush and industry officials said there could be a fuel crunch in a few days if Gulf state refineries are heavily damaged. Gasoline shortages have been a problem in Florida during previous hurricanes, partly because most of the state's fuel arrives by barge. "Over the next 48 hours, contingency plans will begin to take affect to minimize supply interruptions," said state Department of Environmental Protection Secretary Colleen Castille. David Mica, a spokesperson for the Florida Petroleum Council, said it wasn't clear how the storm would affect deliveries. "With (Gulf of Mexico) production virtually shut down right now, along with most of our major refineries, it's going to be a little while before we can assess the damage from Katrina and start to turn the switches back on to get petroleum moving again," Mica said. Castille said companies had committed to supplementing fuel supplies with deliveries from Texas, the northeast and Europe. However, with much of Florida's fuel coming from other Gulf states, Bush said shortages might occur in the coming days if refineries or ports where fuel originates are damaged by Katrina.

Source: <http://www.miami.com/mld/miamiherald/business/national/12507928.htm>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials Sector

Nothing to report.

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Defense Industrial Base Sector

6. *August 29, DefenseNews.com* — **U.S. Navy, shipbuilders await post-storm assessment.** The job of assessing how much damage Hurricane Katrina did to U.S. Navy and commercial shipbuilder sites along the Gulf of Mexico coast is just beginning, with the storm moving inland after coming ashore the morning of Monday, August 29 just east of New Orleans. They've only had a very limited look" at damage, Brian Cullin, a spokesperson for Northrop Grumman shipyards, said Monday afternoon. Northrop Grumman Ship Systems has three shipyards affected by the storm: the New Orleans/Avondale yard on the Mississippi River a few miles above New Orleans; the large Ingalls installation in Pascagoula, MS; and a smaller composite-construction facility at Gulfport, MS. Most of the 20,000 workers at the three shipyards left the area in accordance with evacuation orders. "There are extremely high water

levels up to the pier at this point, and there's expectation they'll have water in the yard," Cullin said of the situation at the Ingalls yard. Two Navy frigates, the Stephen W. Groves and John L. Hall, got underway Friday, August 26 from Pascagoula Naval Station to avoid the approaching storm, the Navy said.

Source: <http://www.defensenews.com/story.php?F=1065139&C=america>

[[Return to top](#)]

Banking and Finance Sector

7. *August 30, Sacramento Bee (CA)* — **Police investigate identity theft ring.** The Placer County, CA, Sheriff's Department is trying to determine how a woman who was arrested in June obtained 300 credit reports for 182 people. The names and personal information were on the hard drive of a computer belonging to Tisha Sartor, the Sheriff's Department said. Detectives said Sartor and five others were arrested in connection with an identity theft ring that stole identities and created phony driver's licenses, checks and other documents. The Sacramento Valley High-Tech Crimes Task Force examined her hard drive and released the new information last week, said Placer County Sheriff's Detective Jim Hudson. Hudson said he has submitted the latest information about Sartor to the Placer County District Attorney's Office for possible prosecution, which could involve 182 counts of identity theft. Hudson said the credit reports were prepared by Fidelity National Credit Services, which had provided them to a now-defunct company, Professional Home Loans of Walnut Grove. The detective said he has established that the breach of security did not come from Fidelity.

Sacramento Valley High-Tech Crimes Task Force: <http://www.sachitechcops.org/index.html>

Source: http://www.sacbee.com/content/community_news/placer/story/13493793p-14334424c.html

8. *August 30, Dow Jones Newswires* — **Security breach at bank.** J.P. Morgan Private Bank has informed its wealthy clients that a computer containing their personal information was stolen from its Dallas office this month. In a letter from Managing Director Elaine Agather, dated Thursday, August 25, clients were told that the computer contained personal and financial information about them, which may also be linked to other accounts they hold in joint names. The computer was stolen August 8, the bank said. "Although the computer was password-protected, it is possible that your information could be accessed and disclosed," the letter said. "We are not aware of any suspicious activity in your accounts. However, as a precaution, we currently are instituting additional security provisions for the operation of your accounts," according to the letter. A spokesperson for J.P. Morgan Chase & Co. said the company continues to monitor the accounts closely.

Source: http://money.iwon.com/jsp/nw/nwdt_rt_top.jsp?cat=TOPBIZ&src=704&feed=dji§ion=news&news_id=dji-00061920050830&date=20050830&alias=/alias/money/cm/nw

[[Return to top](#)]

Transportation and Border Security Sector

9. *August 31, New York Times* — **Carriers are stricken by cancellations and lack of fuel.** The airline industry felt the brunt of Hurricane Katrina Tuesday, August 30, with some airports running low on jet fuel and carriers canceling hundreds of flights. The industry's trade group, the Air Transport Association (ATA), said the nation's supply of jet fuel had been cut 13 percent because of damage to refineries on the Gulf Coast. Of particular concern are supplies at two big airports—Hartsfield, serving Atlanta, GA, and Dulles, serving Washington, DC. Both airports generally rely on supplies from refineries in Louisiana and in Memphis, TN. Complicating matters is the coming Labor Day weekend, which wraps up the summer travel season and is generally the last period of strong travel for the airlines until Thanksgiving. Car travel is also heavy then. And with gasoline selling for upward of \$3 a gallon in some parts of the country, versus \$1.88 for jet fuel, ATA's chief economist, John Heimlich said the airlines were worried that refineries might choose to produce gasoline rather than jet fuel, which would be less in demand. Airports serving New Orleans and Gulfport–Biloxi in Mississippi remained closed Tuesday, while operations at the airport in Jackson, MS, were curtailed. The Federal Aviation Administration said it expected operations to resume in New Orleans Wednesday, although it could not predict when Gulfport–Biloxi would reopen.

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2005/08/31/business/31air.html>

10. *August 30, Houston Chronicle* — **Parts of I–10 bridge over Lake Pontchartrain gone.**

Portions of the Interstate 10 high-rise bridge over the mouth of Lake Pontchartrain, east of New Orleans, LA, and south of Slidell, have collapsed. Some sections of the I–10 twin span — a lifeline between the south and north shores of Lake Pontchartrain — are missing; others have shifted position but are still standing. Mark Smith, spokesperson for the Louisiana Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness, said the causeway bridge, another major roadway running across the middle of the lake, has structural damage. Engineers are inspecting U.S. 11, which also crosses the lake, to determine if it is structurally sound. If so, I–10 traffic will be routed there, said Lt. Lawrence J. McLeary, spokesperson for the Louisiana State Police. Many roads and highways south and north of New Orleans are either flooded and impassable or have been closed by state police to keep people from entering damaged areas until emergency workers can rescue stranded residents and other crews can make damage assessments.

Source: <http://www.chron.com/cs/CDA/ssistory.mpl/nation/3331422>

11. *August 30, USA TODAY* — **San Francisco airport to drop private screeners.** San Francisco International Airport plans to stop using a private company to handle checkpoint security, a decision likely to deal a blow to efforts to privatize screening at the nation's airports. The airport is the largest in a pilot program that is testing whether private companies can do a better job than federal screeners, who now handle airport security. But San Francisco says it will drop its screening company in May because the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) would not protect it from lawsuits that might arise from a terrorist incident. The decision could hinder some lawmakers' efforts to replace federal screeners with private ones, who they say would be more efficient. "I don't think you're going to see any large airports or even medium airports interested in being in this program if they don't have this basic (lawsuit) protection," San Francisco airport director John Martin said. The airport will have federal screeners starting in May. The airport recently said that opting for private screeners could expose it to a potential lawsuit if terrorists boarded an airplane in San Francisco. Only Sioux Falls, SD, and Elko, NV, have applied to use private screeners since the TSA invited applications last fall. Sioux Falls

was approved last month and Elko is pending.

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/travel/news/2005-08-29-screeners_x.htm

12. *August 29, Associated Press* — Hurricane Katrina delivers blow to struggling airlines.

Hurricane Katrina forced the closure of several airports and caused scores of flight cancellations throughout the Gulf Coast region Monday, August 29. It also caused a surge in oil prices, something the airlines have been battling for months with no end in sight. The result could mean more pain for Atlanta-based Delta Air Lines Inc., a major carrier to the area affected by the hurricane, as it continues to try to avoid a Chapter 11 filing. More broadly, the other airlines also could suffer. Like Delta, Eagan, Minnesota-based Northwest Airlines Corp. also is in danger of bankruptcy. The nation's number two carrier, United Airlines, which is currently in bankruptcy, had canceled 63 flights into the area affected by the hurricane, and it expected more as the storm moved north, spokesperson Robin Urbanski said. American Airlines, the nation's biggest carrier, canceled 36 flights in and out of New Orleans on Monday, August 29, while Houston-based Continental Airlines Inc. canceled about 100 flights to the region. Airline industry expert Terry Trippler said he believes the financial impact of the hurricane coupled with ever-rising oil prices could force the airlines to move more aggressively to raise ticket prices.

Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2005/TRAVEL/08/29/katrina.airlines.ap/index.html>

13. *August 25, Federal Aviation Administration* — Flight restrictions in NYC for UN General Assembly. The 60th anniversary of the United Nations, General Assembly (UNGA60) will be held in New York City from September 14 to September 28, 2005. Before and during the UNGA60, the President of the United States and a number of world leaders will arrive in the area for the event. To ensure the airspace is secure during this event, airspace restrictions will be in place around New York City. The restrictions are designed to provide a safe and secure environment for the UNGA60, but also ensure fair and equitable access to all airspace users, to the greatest extent possible. The restrictions will allow commercial flight operations to continue and are designed to minimize the impact on private pilots. Two Temporary Flight Restriction areas are part of the UNGA60 airspace security measures. One includes an inner ring designated as the New York Flight Restricted Zone with a special set of restrictions, and an outer ring designated as the New York Area Defense Identification Zone with another set of restrictions.

Source: http://www.faa.gov/news/news_story.cfm?type=flight_advisory&year=2005&date=082905

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Postal and Shipping Sector

Nothing to report.

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Agriculture Sector

14.

August 30, Associated Press — **Precautions urged against soybean rust in Virginia.**

Scientists said Monday, August 29, that they have detected spores similar to those of Asian soybean rust in eastern Virginia. The airborne spores were found this month in Suffolk. They are so tiny that researchers can't be sure whether they are soybean rust spores, though they are certainly comparable. David Holshouser, an extension soybean specialist with Virginia Tech, said he doubts that soybean rust has taken hold in the state. Nearby soybean plants and extensive testing of leaves showed no indications of the rust. Soybean rust does best in humid climates with temperatures in the mid-60s to mid-80s. Virginia is certainly moist, but temperatures were in the 90s around the time the spores were collected. Nevertheless, researchers recommended that Virginia farmers take extra precautions — checking their fields at least once a week for signs of soybean rust. Soybeans are Virginia's number two cash crop behind tobacco, generating between \$65 million and \$100 million a year. The fungus causes defoliation, stopping growth and limiting yields. The disease is unlikely to survive the winters in Virginia, but researchers say it still poses a threat. Since early August, Virginia has cooled off, providing a more hospitable environment for soybean rust. The second soybean crop, which is scheduled to be harvested in November, would not be out of harm's way if the disease were to establish itself.

Source: http://www.timesdispatch.com/servlet/Satellite?pagename=RTD%2FMSGArticle%2FRTD_BasicArticle&c=MSGArticle&cid=1031784745549&path=!business&s=1045855934855

15. *August 30, Des Moines Register (IA)* — **Storm-linked damage could hurt agriculture businesses.** Hurricane Katrina's damage is still unknown, but its effects could ripple through agriculture. If export facilities at the Port of New Orleans sustained significant damage, "that could be a big deal," said Doug Jackson, vice president for international business at F.C. Stone, a commodity trading company. "It's the largest shipping spot out of the U.S. You couldn't shift all of that demand anywhere else." Harvesting has begun in the Deep South, and it is expected to begin in early September in parts of the Midwest. Large volumes of last year's crops are still in storage. Storm-related damage is expected to delay barge traffic, as well as the loading and unloading of ocean-borne ships, which in turn would put off movement of last year's crops to market. At a minimum, disruption of barge and Gulf Coast port traffic would weigh on already-low farm commodity prices, analysts predicted. Hurricane damage also could cause delayed shipments of such commodities as fertilizer, steel, and salt. Farmers are worried about the storm's impact on fuel prices, especially with the onset of harvest, the largest period of farm-related fuel consumption. The U.S. exports about 17 percent of the corn and 37 percent of soybeans that U.S. farmers produce. For states along the Mississippi River that grow large portions of both crops, Gulf Coast ports are crucial.

Source: <http://desmoinesregister.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/2005/0830/BUSINESS04/508300358/1029/BUSINESS>

16. *August 30, Itar-Tass (Russia)* — **Foot-and-mouth diagnosis confirmed in three districts in Russia.** A foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) diagnosis in cows has been confirmed in three districts in Primorye, Russia. These affected settlements are Krasny Kut in the Spassky district, Pavlo-Fedorovka in the Kirovsky district, and Ignatyevka in the Pozharsky district. Another 43 sick cows were exposed for the past day, and their number reached 116. The largest FMD outbreak occurred in Krasny Kut, where 55 cows from the flock of 140 were infected. Forty-six FMD infected cows were exposed in the Kirovsky district. Fifteen cows fell ill with

FMD in the Pozharsky district. An additional 160,000 vaccines against the FMD virus Asia-1 will be brought to the Primorye territory in the next few days. As many as 150,000 vaccines have already been supplied in the territory for the vaccination of cattle, primarily in regions bordering China.

Source: <http://www.tass.ru/eng/level2.html?NewsID=2362106&PageNum=0>

17. *August 29, Stop Soybean Rust News* — Hurricane Katrina to move soybean rust spores.

Soybean rust transport forecasts say the weather system will carry soybean rust spores as far west as southeast Missouri and as far north and east as Canada and the U.S. Northeast. Spore transport and depositions are expected to follow in the path of Katrina and progressively move northeastward over the next three days. The U.S. Department of Agriculture said that while spore transport is forecast to spread far north due to Katrina, it is important to remember that it typically takes several weeks of favorable disease weather for the development of infection after deposition.

Source: <http://www.stopsoybeanrust.com/viewStory.asp?StoryID=523>

18. *August 29, University of Minnesota* — Researchers develop tests for cattle disease.

Researchers at the University of Minnesota, working in collaboration with scientists at the U.S. Department of Agriculture, have used genomic information to develop tests that can rapidly detect and differentiate the bacteria that causes Johne's disease, a chronic wasting disease found in cattle and other ruminant animals such as sheep, goats, and deer. This research also provides the foundation for a better understanding of the Johne's disease process and the design of vaccines to prevent infection. Johne's disease is devastating to the United States dairy industry, costing about \$200 million per year due to reduced milk production. Estimates indicate that the disease is present in approximately 25 percent of Minnesota's dairy herds. Because the bacterium that causes Johne's disease, *Mycobacterium avium* subspecies *paratuberculosis*, is slow growing in the laboratory, previous tests often took between six and 18 weeks to process. The current study shows how genomic information may be used to develop highly specific, sensitive, and rapid tests for the detection of infected animals. These new tests, which enable detection of the bacterium in fecal matter or milk, can be completed in 72 hours or less with an accuracy that was not possible without knowledge of the complete genome of the bacterium.

Research Abstract: http://www.pnas.org/cgi/content/abstract/102/35/12344?maxtohow=&HITS=10&hits=10&RESULTFORMAT=1&andorexacttitle=and&andorexacttitleabs=and&fulltext=Johne%92s+disease&andorexactfulltext=phrase&searchid=1125422753756_6311&stored_search=&FIRSTINDEX=0&sortspec=relevance&fdate=7/1/2005&journalcode=pnas

Source: <http://www.ahc.umn.edu/news/releases/johnes082905/home.html>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Food Sector

19. *August 29, Food Safety and Inspection Service* — Sausage recalled. Lykes Meat Group, a Plant City, FL, firm, is voluntarily recalling approximately 35,830 pounds of Polish Sausage that may have been under processed, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) announced Monday, August 29. The sausage was distributed to retail stores in Connecticut, Indiana, Kentucky, Maine, Michigan, New York, and Ohio. The problem

was discovered by the company. FSIS has received no reports of illnesses associated with consumption of these products.

Source: http://www.fsis.usda.gov/News_&_Events/Recall_035_2005_Release/index.asp

20. *August 29, Food and Drug Administration* — **Mouthwash recalled.** The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is notifying the public of a nationwide voluntary recall of alcohol-free mouthwash and hygiene kits containing mouthwash distributed by Medline Industries, Inc., Mundelein, IL, because of the potential contamination with *Burkholderia cepacia*. The product was distributed to hospitals, medical centers, and long term care facilities nationwide. There is no known distribution through retail sales. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has confirmed hospital illness associated with the use of the affected mouthwash in Texas and Florida. *B. cepacia* is a known cause of infections in hospitalized patients. The effects of *B. cepacia* on people vary widely, ranging from no symptoms at all, to serious respiratory infections. *B. cepacia* poses little medical risk to healthy people. However, people who have certain health problems such as weakened immune systems or chronic lung diseases may be more susceptible to infections with *B. cepacia*. Of note, *B. cepacia* bacteria are often resistant to common antibiotics.

Source: <http://www.fda.gov/bbs/topics/news/2005/NEW01225.html>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Water Sector

Nothing to report.

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Public Health Sector

21. *August 31, New York Times* — **Disease and coordination vie as major challenges.** As they rushed medical equipment and experts to the Gulf Coast, federal officials warned Tuesday, August 30, that the public health consequences of Hurricane Katrina were likely to be enormous and long term. Officials are particularly worried about outbreaks of disease spread through sewage contamination of drinking water, spoiled food, insects, and bites from snakes and other animals. Scores of people have already died by drowning or other causes, two by carbon monoxide poisoning from the use of gas-powered generators in poorly ventilated areas. Rescue workers searched for the injured and disabled Tuesday in an effort to prevent additional fatalities, and, trying to head off outbreaks of diarrheal disease, used helicopters to deliver food and safe drinking water. Michael Leavitt, Secretary of Health and Human Services, said his department was working to open up 1,000 hospital beds on an emergency basis in the Gulf Coast region. The disease control centers has sent basic supplies like first-aid and suture kits, sterile gloves, bandages, blankets and portable oxygen tanks from the national stockpile. In addition, the Public Health Service has deployed 38 doctors and nurses and has an additional 217 on stand-by.

Information about hurricane recovery is available from the CDC:

<http://www.bt.cdc.gov/disasters/hurricanes/index.asp>

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2005/08/31/national/nationalspecial/3>

lhealth.html?ei=5090&en=b7a7ed01020d4ed4&ex=1283140800&partner=rssuserland&emc=rss&pagewanted=print

22. *August 30, Agence France Presse* — **Indonesia launches anti-polio campaign.** Health workers fanned out across the vast Indonesian archipelago Tuesday, August 30, in a bid to vaccinate all 24 million children aged under five against the crippling polio virus amid fears it may spread regionally. More than 750,000 health workers and volunteers were setting up 245,000 immunization posts in clinics, bus and train stations, and other locations, to reach children across Indonesia's 6,000 inhabited islands. Besides Tuesday's drive, a second round of nationwide vaccinations is planned for next month as the government scurries to prevent the spread of the disease. Two vaccine doses are typically required for immunity against polio. The waterborne polio virus, which attacks and withers children's limbs and can kill them, reemerged in Indonesia in April, nearly a decade after it was believed to have been eradicated in the country. Indonesia's vast size, a looming wet season and a health system stretched by last December's tsunami have stoked fears that the virus might take a firm hold and spread to nearby nations where vaccination rates have fallen.

Global Polio Eradication Initiative: <http://www.polioeradication.org/>

Source: http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20050830/hl_afp/indonesiahealthpolio_050830113457

23. *August 30, Scientific American* — **New antibiotics successful against superbugs.** The misuse and overuse of antibiotics has led to the rise of so-called superbugs — bacteria that have developed a resistance to widely used antibiotics and pose a threat to public health. Scientists have been investigating alternative treatment options. At a presentation given Monday, August 29, at a national meeting of the American Chemical Society in Washington, DC, researchers unveiled one such candidate: a novel type of antibiotic that has shown promise against bacteria that survive in the face of conventional medications. The researchers have now made three new synthetic antibiotics based on cephalosporin, a close relative of penicillin. The scientists tested the novel compounds against vancomycin-resistant methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) and found that they successfully killed the bacteria, whereas a class of conventional antibiotics known as beta-lactams did not. One of the compounds has since begun Phase I clinical studies, but it will take more studies and time before it can be widely marketed. Methicillin Resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* information:

http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/diseases/submenu/sub_mrsa.htm

Vancomycin Resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* information:

<http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/hip/vanco/VANCO.HTM>

Source: <http://www.sciam.com/article.cfm?chanID=sa003&articleID=0005D5CC-746D-1313-B46D83414B7F0000>

24. *August 30, Health Affairs* — **Public health response to urgent case reports.** Researchers evaluated the ability of local public health agencies (LPHAs) to meet a preparedness standard set by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC): to receive and respond to urgent case reports of communicable diseases twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. Researchers identified and invited twenty metropolitan LPHAs to participate in a test of their telephone response systems. One LPHA declined to participate, resulting in a sample of nineteen LPHAs in eighteen different states. Substantial variability in performance and in the systems in place to respond to such reports was found. Local public health agencies (LPHAs) are one of the country's first lines of defense during disease outbreaks. Strengthening LPHAs'

ability to detect and respond to bioterrorism and naturally occurring disease outbreaks is a national priority. LPHA surveillance and reporting systems designed to receive case reports from health care and laboratory workers in the field tend to rely upon fragmented communication networks and paper-based case-reporting mechanisms. Such reports are LPHAs' primary source of information for detecting disease outbreaks and initiating preemptive public health responses. Policies and procedures for reporting to these systems can differ within and across states, which makes it difficult to coordinate and consolidate real-time information across public health agencies at federal, state, and local levels.

Source: <http://content.healthaffairs.org/cgi/content/full/hlthaff.w5.412/DC1>

25. *August 29, Standard-Examiner (UT)* — **Utah preparing for avian influenza virus.** No one knows when or if the avian influenza virus H5N1 will strike Utah. However, the state's health department recently formed a 30-member committee to create a five-step response plan to decide who will receive the vaccine and antiviral medication; determine the response of hospitals and clinics; plan communication with the public and health officials; set up command and control; and find ways to discover, as soon as possible, that the virus has arrived so it can be quickly controlled. Hospitals are already monitoring for patients with unexplained respiratory illnesses who have traveled recently to Southeast Asia. The symptoms of avian influenza in humans range from typical influenza-like symptoms — fever, cough, sore throat, and muscle aches — to acute respiratory distress, eye infections, pneumonia, and other life-threatening complications. While scientists and health officials stress there is no evidence of the H5N1 virus in the U.S., visitors from Vietnam, China, or Russia — or an infected bird — could bring it here. The H5N1 virus has killed at least 60 people in Asia who came in contact with sick birds — and it has spread from Southeast Asia to China and Russia.

Source: <http://www2.standard.net/standard/news/60735/>

26. *August 29, Brookhaven National Laboratory* — **Scientists describe new way to peer inside bacteria.** Scientists at the U.S. Department of Energy's Brookhaven National Laboratory and Stony Brook University have developed a new way to "image" the internal chemistry of bacteria. Called x-ray spectromicroscopy, the method uses the extremely bright x-rays available at Brookhaven's National Synchrotron Light Source (NSLS) — but not just to take pictures. At the NSLS, the scientists can actually "tune" the energy level of the beam to measure subtle differences in the energy absorbed by different forms of carbon. This carbon absorption spectrum, or "fingerprint," reveals detailed biochemical information about what is inside and around the bacterial cells — and can even detect the formation of bacterial spores at an early stage invisible to other methods. The technique may also reveal details about the process of bacterial spore formation. This could be important to environmental cleanup because spore-forming microbes often live in contaminated environments. It might also offer new targets for the detection of weaponized bacteria (by finding spores at an early stage), or help thwart disease or a terrorist attack by finding ways to prevent the spores from germinating into active, infective bacterial cells.

Source: http://www.bnl.gov/bnlweb/pubaf/pr/PR_display.asp?prID=05-77

27. *August 26, Duke University Medical Center* — **Novel plague virulence factor identified.** Researchers at Duke University Medical Center have identified a previously unknown family of virulence factors that make the bacterium responsible for the plague especially efficient at killing its host. In the process, the team not only demonstrated that the use of the common

roundworm is a valid model for studying the virulence of *Yersinia pestis*, the bacterium that causes plague. They also showed that the interaction between *Y. pestis* and the worm is quite similar to what occurs in mammals, including humans. The work indicates that the pathogen may use similar virulence mechanisms to infect evolutionary diverse organisms. These findings are important since the pathogenesis system using the *Caenorhabditis elegans* worm can accelerate the process of better understanding *Y. pestis* pathogenesis. Researchers screened a library of almost 1,000 *Y. pestis* mutants and found that six virulence factors are crucial for the bacterium to have full virulence. Of the six virulence factors, three are also required for infections in mammals.

Plague information: http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/diseases/submenus/sub_plague.htm

Source: <http://www.dukehealth.org/news/9214?from=RSS>

28. *August 26, National Institute of Standards and Technology* — **Detecting anthrax proteins at ultra low concentrations.** A new laboratory method for quickly detecting active anthrax proteins within an infected blood sample at extremely low levels has been developed by researchers at the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), the U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases, and the National Cancer Institute. Current detection methods rely on injecting live animals or cell cultures with samples for analysis and require up to several days before results are available. The new method produces unambiguous results in about an hour. The researchers hope the system will ultimately be useful in developing fast, reliable ways to diagnose anthrax infections or to quickly screen large numbers of drugs as possible therapies for blocking the bacteria's toxic effects. The method works by detecting changes in current flow when anthrax proteins are present in a solution. An anthrax protein called "protective antigen" spontaneously forms nanometer-scale pores that penetrate the surface of an organic membrane. When a voltage is applied across the membrane, positively and negatively charged ions flow freely in both directions through the pore. When additional anthrax proteins called lethal factor (LF) or edema factor (EF) are present, however, the proteins bind to the outside of the pore and shut down the flow of ions in one direction. The proteins can be detected in amounts as low as 10 picomolar.

Source: http://www.nist.gov/public_affairs/techbeat/tb2005_0826.htm#anthrax

[[Return to top](#)]

Government Sector

29. *August 30, Department of Homeland Security* — **U.S. Government response to the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.** President George W. Bush declared major disasters for impacted areas in Louisiana, Mississippi, Florida, and Alabama. Some highlights of the federal response include: a) The Federal Emergency Management Agency deployed 23 Disaster Medical Assistance Teams from all across the U.S. to staging areas in Alabama, Tennessee, Texas, and Louisiana and is now moving them into impacted areas; b) More than 40 Coast Guard aircraft from units along the entire eastern seaboard are positioned in staging areas around the impact areas; c) The U.S. Department of Transportation dispatched more than 390 trucks that are beginning to deliver millions of meals, millions of liters of water, among other disaster supplies; d) The National Guard of the four most heavily impacted states are providing support to civil authorities as well as generators, medical and shelter with approximately 7,500 troops on State Active Duty; e) The U.S. Department of Agriculture State Emergency Boards are

coordinating agricultural–related responses at the county, state, and national levels in Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and elsewhere; f) The American Red Cross is providing a safe haven for nearly 4,000 evacuees in more than 230 Red Cross shelters, from the panhandle of Florida, across Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Georgia, and Texas.

Source: <http://www.dhs.gov/dhspublic/display?content=4767>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Emergency Services Sector

30. *August 30, Asbury Park Press (NJ)* — **Rapid–response center at New Jersey university on guard against an attack.** Barbara T. Reagor, director of the Center for Rapid Response Database Systems at Monmouth University in West Long Branch, NJ, started developing a rapid–response communications system about a year ago to address a wide array of emergency situations. The center is a joint venture between the university and the Army to develop a communication system that will allow local, regional and federal agencies a better way to respond to a disease outbreak, a natural disaster or biological or chemical attack. During its first year, Reagor and other researchers attempted to determine what type of information, whether it was a disease outbreak or a biological attack, that first–responders would need to know. Now, the center is working on a number of ways to make that valuable information available through various software programs. The idea is to create programs that can be used by large law enforcement agencies, such as the New York City Police Department, as well as by two–man operations in small towns. The center marked its one–year anniversary Monday, August 29. Official Website of the Center; note: Website is currently under construction:

<http://www.monmouth.edu/academics/centerlinks/rapidresponse.db.asp>

Source: <http://www.app.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20050830/NEWS01/508300351/1004/NEWS02>

31. *August 30, New York Times* — **Navy ships and maritime rescue teams are sent to region affected by Hurricane Katrina.** The Pentagon Tuesday, August 30, ordered five Navy ships and eight maritime rescue teams to the Gulf Coast. The ships will carry food, fuel, medical and construction supplies, as well as hovercraft that can be used for evacuation and search–and–rescue missions. The Coast Guard scrambled helicopters from stations along the Gulf of Mexico and as far away as Cape Cod, MA. The helicopters plucked hundreds of people from floodwaters in New Orleans. Rescue coordination was difficult because power and telephone service were out and some federal, state and local agencies had incompatible radio equipment. Search–and–rescue crews from the the Federal Emergency Management Agency were delayed in getting to the most devastated zones, because of the flooding and impassable roads. The effort to move massive quantities of relief supplies and rescue gear was slowed by the closing of several Gulf Coast airports.

Source: http://www.nytimes.com/2005/08/31/national/nationalspecial/3_1response.html

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Information Technology and Telecommunications Sector

32. *August 29, Red Herring (CA)* — **Wireless carriers affected by Hurricane Katrina.** After Hurricane Katrina knocked down phone and power lines along the Gulf Coast Monday, August 29, wireless operators struggled to restore cellular service, which was often the only means of communication for emergency workers searching for victims of the storm. The nation's two largest carriers, Cingular and Verizon Wireless, both said the hurricane had disrupted service in several cities including New Orleans, which experienced serious flooding in at least one area, as the city is mostly below sea level. Both companies said they had backup generators that had kicked in to minimize disruptions from the lack of power, but the companies urged subscribers to limit non-emergency calls to free up the network for emergency agencies and operations. To lighten the network's load, both companies recommended that subscribers send text messages for non-emergency communications. Typically, cellular networks can remain in operation through some storms, but they can also become severely congested due to the high volume of calls during emergency situations. In the aftermath of Katrina, both companies are deploying cells on wheels, or COWs, to extend any needed network coverage.
Source: <http://www.redherring.com/Article.aspx?a=13372&hed=Katrina+Leaves+Wireless+Alone§or=Industries&subsector=Communications>

33. *August 29, SecurityTracker* — **SqWebMail bug in filtering IMG tags lets remote users inject arbitrary scripting code.** A vulnerability was reported in SqWebMail. The software does not properly filter HTML code in e-mail messages. A remote user can send an HTML-based e-mail message containing arbitrary scripting code. When the target user views the message, the scripting code will be executed by the target user's browser. The code will originate from the site running the SqWebMail software and will run in the security context of that site. As a result, the code will be able to access the target user's cookies (including authentication cookies), if any, associated with the site, access data recently submitted by the target user via web form to the site, or take actions on the site acting as the target user. A remote user can access the target user's cookies (including authentication cookies), if any, associated with the site running the SqWebMail software, access data recently submitted by the target user via web form to the site, or take actions on the site acting as the target user. The vendor has issued a fixed development snapshot version (5.0.4.20050826):
<http://www.courier-mta.org/?download.php>
Source: <http://securitytracker.com/alerts/2005/Aug/1014810.html>

34. *August 29, Secunia* — **Looking Glass cross-site scripting and shell command injection.** Vulnerabilities in Looking Glass, which can be exploited by malicious people to conduct cross-site scripting attacks and compromise a vulnerable system. Input passed to the "version" array parameter in footer.php and header.php is not properly sanitised before being returned to users. This can be exploited to execute arbitrary HTML and script code in a user's browser session in context of an affected site. Input passed to the "target" parameter in lg.php is not properly sanitised before being used in a "system()" call. This can be exploited to inject arbitrary shell commands via e.g. the "|" pipe character. The vulnerabilities have been confirmed in the latest available version. Other versions may also be affected. No official fix is currently known.
Source: <http://secunia.com/advisories/16607/>

DHS/US-CERT Watch Synopsis

Over the preceding 24 hours, there has been no cyber activity which constitutes an unusual and significant threat to Homeland Security, National Security, the Internet, or the Nation's critical infrastructures.

US-CERT Operations Center Synopsis: The US-CERT is aware of potential widespread infections of new variants of the Mytob worm via social engineering techniques. The new variants are using emails and directing them to open attachments where it connects a remote server on various TCP ports.

The variants are described as mass-mailing worms that have back door capabilities and use their own SMTP engine to send an email to addresses gathered from the compromised computer. Although all variants have been categorized with an overall low severity rating and present no new threat, the fact that some organizations have experienced and reported a surge of infections at least warrants a renewed caution.

US-CERT recommends that all Administrators / Users update systems to the current anti-virus software and periodically scan systems for any new malicious activity.

Current Port Attacks

Top 10 Target Ports	1026 (---), 445 (microsoft-ds), 139 (netbios-ssn), 135 (epmap), 6346 (gnutella-svc), 6881 (bittorrent), 1434 (ms-sql-m), 53 (domain), 55555 (---), 137 (netbios-ns) Source: http://isc.incidents.org/top10.html ; Internet Storm Center
----------------------------	--

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at soc@us-cert.gov or visit their Website: www.us-cert.gov.

Information on IT information sharing and analysis can be found at the IT ISAC (Information Sharing and Analysis Center) Website: <https://www.it-isac.org/>.

[[Return to top](#)]

Commercial Facilities/Real Estate, Monument & Icons Sector

35. *August 30, USA TODAY* — **Storm hit just prior to convention season.** In the wake of the storm, hoteliers and meeting planners scrambled to determine how much of its scheduled convention business New Orleans can handle. September through October and May through June are the busiest seasons for one of the USA's premiere convention cities, says Mary Power, CEO of the Convention Industry Council in McLean, VA. New Orleans' convention attendance set a record in 1999 and has fallen each year since. The 350-room Omni Royal Orleans expects to be able to accommodate groups scheduled after Labor Day, although it's still assessing damage, says Omni spokesperson Christine Connolly. But Katrina's true damage to the convention business might not be known for months, says Heywood Sanders, a University of Texas at San Antonio professor who tracks the industry. Katrina might remind planners of the uncertainty that hurricane season brings, undermining some of its appeal. Some planners shied away from Florida after watching a series of four hurricanes disrupt flights and meetings there last year, he says. Katrina has forced several casinos to close in Mississippi and New Orleans. Source: http://www.usatoday.com/travel/destinations/2005-08-29-katrina-tourism-usat_x.htm

[\[Return to top\]](#)

General Sector

36. *August 30, Reuters* — New Orleans flooded, hundreds feared dead in hurricane. Authorities made plans to remove thousands of storm refugees from the Superdome stadium and other shelters in New Orleans Tuesday, August 30, while U.S. Army engineers raced to staunch rising floodwaters submerging New Orleans. Looters struck, adding to the city's misery. As New Orleans coped with a flood, Mississippi grappled with the prospect that hundreds of people may have died when a 30-foot storm surge blasted ashore, a city spokesperson said. Cadaver dogs were being brought in to help find the dead. Mississippi Gov. Haley Barbour said there were reports of up to 80 dead in the Biloxi area, but U.S. Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff said the state's unofficial estimates were "probably way too low." New Orleans is a bowl-like city mostly below sea level and protected by levees or embankments. The levees gave way Monday night in at least three places, including a 200-foot breach that allowed waters from Lake Pontchartrain to pour into the city center. The U.S. military planned to use helicopters to drop 3,000-pound, gravel-filled sandbags into the breaches, the worst up to 20 feet deep. Authorities were also considering plugging the gap with shipping containers filled with sand.

Source: http://today.reuters.com/investing/financeArticle.aspx?type=bondsNews&storyID=URI:urn:newsml:reuters.com:20050831:MTFH99789_2005-08-31_03-30-44_N30260215:1

[\[Return to top\]](#)

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Contact Information

[DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Reports](#) – The DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report is a daily [Monday through Friday] summary of open-source published information concerning significant critical infrastructure issues. The DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report is archived for ten days on the Department of Homeland Security Website:

<http://www.dhs.gov/iaipdailyreport>

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Contact Information

Content and Suggestions:

Send mail to dhsdailyadmin@mail.dhs.osis.gov or contact the DHS Daily Report Team at (703) 983-3644.

Subscription and Distribution Information:

Send mail to dhsdailyadmin@mail.dhs.osis.gov or contact the DHS Daily Report Team at (703) 983-3644 for more information.

Contact DHS

To report physical infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact the National Infrastructure Coordinating Center at nicc@dhs.gov or (202) 282-9201.

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at soc@us-cert.gov or visit their Web page at www.us-cert.gov.

Department of Homeland Security Disclaimer

The DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report is a non-commercial publication intended to educate and inform personnel engaged in infrastructure protection. Further reproduction or redistribution is subject to original copyright restrictions. DHS provides no warranty of ownership of the copyright, or accuracy with respect to the original source material.